

INCOMING TELEGRAM

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FROM: MEXICO CITY

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 905, SEPTEMBER 18, 6 PM

DEPCIRTEL 465

IN KEEPING WITH MEXICO'S CAUTIOUS ATTITUDE, NO PUBLIC STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE BY ANY GOM OFFICIALS ON CUBAN DEVELOPMENTS. NEVERTHELESS, EMBASSY JUDGES THAT EARLIEST REPORTS OF SOVIET BUILD-UP OF CUBAN MILITARY POWER WERE INITIALLY RECEIVED WITH SKEPTICISM AS SOURCES WERE CUBAN EXILES. SINCE THEN, CONFIRMATION BY TASS AND PRESIDENT KENNEDY MUST HAVE CREATED SOME CONCERN LEST SHOWDOWN OVER CUBA RESULT IN MEXICAN INVOLVEMENT.

PRESIDENT LOPEZ MATEOS RECENTLY STATED THAT MEXICO WOULD NOT TOLERATE ANY SUBVERSIVE ACTS ON ITS SOIL AND HAD POWER TO REPRESS SAME. ALTHOUGH HE DID NOT MENTION CUBA, CONTEXT AND TIMING INDICATED HE HAD IT IN MIND.

NON-COMMUNIST PRESS HAS DEVOTED LARGE HEADLINES AND MUCH SPACE TO SUBJECT, BUT EDITORIAL REACTION HAS VARIED, RANGING FROM ALARM AT US MEASURES AND STATEMENTS BY US SENATORS (NOVEDADES, LA PRENSA) TO POSITION THAT ANY ACTION AGAINST CUBA WOULD BE IN FAVOR OF CUBAN PEOPLE, WHO ARE SLAVES (EXCELSIOR).

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